

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116

Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 2800

Application No. 10/528,953

Paper Dated October 3, 2006

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of July 5, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 0115-050642

REMARKS

The final Office Action of July 5, 2006 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. The present Amendment amends claim 21 in accordance with the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Therefore, claims 21-39 are pending in this application, and claim 21 is in independent form.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 21-24 and 33-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness based upon United States Patent No. 5,684,903 to Kyomasu et al. (hereinafter "the Kyomasu patent") in view of United States Patent No. 5,708,743 to DeAndrea et al. (hereinafter "the DeAndrea patent"). The Examiner also separately rejected claims 25-32 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness based upon the Kyomasu patent and the DeAndrea patent. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections.

As defined by independent claim 21, the present invention is directed to a connector for the detachable connection of at least one optical waveguide to at least one optoelectronic component which is arranged and electrically contacted as a chip on the surface of a support, and which has an optical axis perpendicular to the support. The optical waveguide includes a fiber-optic plug connector. The connector includes a base part and a coupling part. The base part is fastened on the surface of the support surrounding the optoelectronic component such that the base part only partially covers the surface of the support. The base part also has a through-hole for optical signals to be exchanged between the optoelectronic component and the optical waveguide. The coupling part is exclusively mounted to the base part facing outward and has an insertion opening for the insertion of the fiber-optic plug connector.

The Kyomasu patent discloses a receptacle and a method of manufacturing the same. The receptacle includes a case (10) with a mounting hole (50z) for receiving a laser diode (50) therein. The mounting hole (50z) can be closed by means of a lid portion (10c) (see Fig. 1C). The mounting hole (50z) completely receives the laser diode (50). Only two lead pins (150e and 150f) extend through the lid portion (10c) to the outside of the case (10).

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patent does not cure this deficiency. As is clearly illustrated in FIGS. 6, 7 and 12-14, the box-like casing (50) of the connector of the DeAndrea patent is mounted to and covers the entire top surface (17) of the substrate (15).

When evaluating a claim for determining the question of obviousness, all of the limitations of the claim must be evaluated. Where claimed limitations are simply not present in the prior art, a *prima facie* obviousness rejection is not supported. Accordingly, since the Kyomasu patent and the DeAndrea patent, either individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest that the base part only partially covers the surface of the support as required by amended independent claim 21 as discussed hereinabove, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

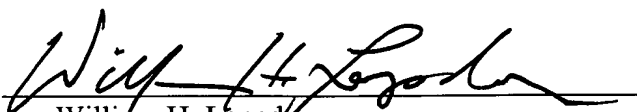
For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants believe that the subject matter of amended independent claim 21 is not rendered obvious by the Kyomasu patent in view of the DeAndrea patent. Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-39 depend from and add further limitations to amended independent claim 21 or a subsequent dependent claim and are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with amended independent claims 21. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 22-39 is respectfully requested.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of pending claims 21-39 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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